



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

MICHAEL M. CLINE
State Coordinator

JANET L. CLEMENTS
Deputy Coordinator

10501 Trade Court
Richmond, Virginia 23236-3713
(804) 897-6500
(TDD) 674-2417
FAX (804) 897-6506

Disaster Field Office

603 E. Main St. • Lebanon, VA 24266

FEMA-1525-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #2

Monday, June 21, 2004

1. Situation

A system of severe storms began moving through Southwest Virginia on May 24, 2004. Flash flooding occurred on May 24-25 in Tazewell and Russell counties. Tornadoes damaged homes in Lee County on May 28. Flash floods impacted Buchanan County and several other counties in Southwest Virginia over the June 12-15 period.

Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency for Tazewell and Russell counties on May 25 and expanded the declaration to include Lee County on June 3.

On June 2, 2004, Governor Mark R. Warner requested that President Bush issue a major disaster declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties. He requested federal aid through the Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs. President Bush granted a Federal Disaster Declaration for Lee, Russell and Tazewell counties on June 15, 2004.

2. Weather for Russell County and Tazewell County

Today, *isolated severe thunderstorms possible. May contain damaging winds, locally heavy rain and hail. Otherwise cloudy, winds ENE at 6 mph. Tomorrow, scattered thunderstorms, highs upper 70s.*

3. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives

- ☐ *Obtain signature approval of Federal/Commonwealth Agreement.*
- ☐ Notify affected communities of the availability of federal disaster assistance.
- ☐ Address potential housing *and rental resources* issues.
- ☐ *Complete* Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ☐ Manage public expectations through targeted media releases and appropriate contacts with public officials.
- ☐ Joint FCO/SCO determination of Incident Period closure date.

4. Recovery Activities

A. Human Services

i. Tele-registrations

- ☐ *370* registrations from declared and undeclared jurisdictions. Expect approximately 1000 total registrations.
- ☐ Individuals can register immediately for FEMA assistance by calling (800) 621-FEMA or TTY (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired.

ii. Small Business Administration

- ☐ *FEMA SBA staff member arrived in the DFO today.*

“Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities”

iii. Disaster Recovery Center

- ☐ A Disaster Recovery Center (*DRC*) to serve all three declared counties *opened today*. It is located in the town of Richlands, Department of Police Building, 1851 Cranwell Dr., Richlands, VA 24641. DRC open seven days a week until further notice.

iv. Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

(a) Housing Program

- ☐ *\$63,000 in housing assistance has been approved and should be disbursed today.*
- ☐ *Collect availability of rental resources and address potential housing issues through review of PDA results and requests for assistance.*

(b) Other Needs Assistance (ONA)

- ☐ *Processing of ONA claims expected to begin July 1.*

v. Volunteer Organizations

- ☐ The local recovery task forces in Russell and Tazewell counties are assisting as requested and will have representatives in the DRC to meet with individuals.

vi. Donations Management

- ☐ Tazewell and Russell Counties are coordinating distribution of donated goods.
- ☐ *Clinch Valley Community Action (CVCA) is providing disaster relief to all local counties at 1161 Second St. in Richlands, Va. Applicants must be referred by FEMA, American Red Cross or VDEM to be eligible. This donation center may be able to help with cleaning supplies, furniture, clothing and personal care items. They may also be able to fill special needs as available.*

vii. Disaster Unemployment Assistance

- ☐ Effective June 18, 2004, assistance is available for residents of the declared jurisdictions. Residents can call or visit the nearest Virginia Employment Office.

viii. Mental Health

- ☐ The Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board will provide mental health assistance for residents of Tazewell and Russell Counties. A representative will be in the DRC in Richlands.

B. Community Relations (CR)

- ☐ *Completed Preliminary Damage Assessment of Buchanan County. Twenty homes/mobile homes, three bridges and two businesses impacted. The State Coordinator will request the FCO to add Buchanan County to the Presidential declaration.*
- ☐ *Four state/federal CR teams have been deployed in the three declared counties distributing flyers for Tele-Registration, the DRC location and the 1 800 FEMA contact information.*
- ☐ *Teams will be assessing unmet and special needs and researching available rental residential units in their assigned jurisdictions.*
- ☐ *Field officers met with local emergency managers and other local government officials in their assigned areas of the declared jurisdictions.*

C. Mitigation

- ☐ *State rep will coordinate with FEMA to draft a Hazard Mitigation Plan.*
- ☐ *Provide mitigation counseling at DRC.*

D. Legislative Liaison

- ☐ Appropriate *State* Senators and Delegates *have been* notified of the Presidential declaration *and the opening of the DRC.*

E. Hazardous Materials

- ☐ Regional Hazardous Material Officer is continuing to monitor situations in the area.

F. Public Affairs

- ❑ *News advisory issued about DRC opening.*
- ❑ *News release issued that inspectors will be in the field.*
- ❑ *Provide PAO assistance as requested by the FCO/SCO at opening of the DRC.*

G. Disaster Recovery Task Forces

- ❑ The Local Disaster Recovery Task Force in Russell County met June 1 and June 3, 2004 to assist citizens of Russell County. A follow-up meeting was held on June 15 to discuss pending cases of requests for assistance.
- ❑ The task forces for Russell and Tazewell counties have representatives in the DRC in Richlands.

H. Miscellaneous Actions:

- ❑ *VDOT has cleared all roads and repaired bridges in the three declared jurisdictions. Minor roadwork repairs continuing. Considerable work remains in the undeclared county of Buchanan. Repairs are needed for several washouts and streambeds and clearing of slides. Rt. 772 near Raven remains closed and the locality is considering permanently closing it and rerouting local traffic.*
- ❑ VDH (Health) and DEQ (Environmental Quality) in Russell and Tazewell counties continue *to assist citizens* with evaluating drinking water safety.
- ❑ VDOF (Forestry) *has completed assisting debris removal. No follow on actions expected.*
- ❑ DMME (Mines and Mineral Energy) *has completed inspections of mine sites. Also, has completed assisting VDOT (at their request) of assessing mudslide clearing near homes in Richlands.*
- ❑ Tetanus vaccinations *remain* available from the local health departments.

I. State Coordinating Officer

- ❑ Deputy SCO requested DFO prepare state situation reports (sitreps) *daily* from June 21 through 25. Frequency of sitreps after June 25 will be determined later this week.
- ❑ DFO will be open June 21 *and following days* M-F (8 a.m.-6 p.m.), *Saturdays (8 a.m. – 1p.m.)*. DFO will be closed Sundays.
- ❑ *The VDEM Region 6 Coordinator visited the DFO today.*
- ❑ *The Deputy SCO and the FCO held an informal meeting with county and town officials of the declared jurisdictions at the DRC at 1 p.m. June 21.*

Signed, Mary Camp, Dep. SCO, June 22, 2004

Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Mary Camp, Deputy State Coordinating Officer